



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

"The Purple Heart," an American decoration, is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier. It was created by one of the world's most famous and beloved heroes, General George Washington; and

WHEREAS,

General Washington presented the first "Badge of Military Merit," which has now become the Purple Heart, on August 7, 1782; and

WHEREAS,

the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of an enemy, and posthumously to the next of kin, in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is definitely a combat decoration; and

WHEREAS,

in honor of the "Combat Wounded Veterans of Louisiana" who have shed their blood in defense of this great nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2004, as

PURPLE HEART DAY

in the state of Louisiana, in recognition of all "Combat Wounded Veterans of Louisiana."



Attest By
The Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have herunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 29th day of July
A.D., 2004.*

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana